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THE
CRESTED WREN.

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THE
CRESTED WREN.

BY K
EDWARD AUGUSTUS KENDALL.

O! guard from harm his golden head,
And listen to his lore!

BEATTIE.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR E. NEWBERRY,
AT THE CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

1799.

NOTE.—In the first line of the motto
affixed to the title-page, which is quoted from
Dr BEATTIE's Ode to Retirement, the word
“*golden*” has been substituted for “*hoary*.”



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THE
CRESTED WREN.

CHAP. I.

Sketch of the Natural History of Wrens :—common Wren;—its Varieties :—Wren of Buenos-Ayres;—Wren of Louisiana ;—North American Wren :—Yellow Wren :—Crested Wrens :—Ruby-crowned Wren; Red-headed Wren ;—Scarlet-crowned blue Titmouse;—Titmouse Wren;—Gold-crested Wren.

I AM a sort of fairy among feathered creatures. I lodge under the leaf of the oak, and I scale its loftiest summit. I am the smallest bird of Europe: nay, almost, of the world. Security, which others hope from magnitude, is mine from the diminutiveness of my size. I pass through the
B meshes

meshes of common nets; cages cannot confine me; if I am driven into a room, I find an high-way through a crevice, or a key-hole, a triumphal arch to me; pursued in a garden, I creep behind a blossom and am safe.

The family of WRENS is very numerous, and it is divided into several distinct branches. Under various titles, and exterior appearances, we visit almost every nation, and every climate. We endure the cold of Iceland, and of Magellan's land; and we bear the heat of Bengal in the old world, and of the Antilles in the new. We bathe in american Meshasippi*, the father of floods; we twitter to the wandering

* Corruptly called *Mississippi*.

Iroquois;

Iroquois; we sojourn with the Illinois, and with the war-waging Cherokee: we visit the Spaniard while he is toiling in Mexico and Acapulco, and sometimes we peep into the cottages of his own country. We traverse Europe, alighting alternately amid the ruins of the Greeks and of the Romans; crossing the vallies and the lakes of Switzerland, the garrisons of Germany, the departments of France, and the islands of Denmark; the waves of the Baltic, the cities of Sweden, and the forests of Norway; and some individuals pass all their time among the mountain-woods, the willows, and the gardens, of Britain.

In every place we are received with royal titles. When I was in Italy, I

was called *Reattino*, or Little King; and *Papazzino*, or Little Pope; and the Germans styled me *Gekroöntes*, or Crowned-bird. It were endless to recount the various names by which the Pole, the Dane, the Fleming, or the Ice-lander, describes us: but I think it right to give the Reader some idea of the respect which I hold in foreign countries. I might add to these, the Frenchman's appellation, *Roitelet*; a title that is synonymous with the others; and I might increase the list with more of similar import: but I rather choose to be sincere, and to acknowledge that, among my other names, I have some more humble. Thus, some Germans call me *Holtz-meisse*, or Wood-mouse; the Greeks name me *Tettigon*, or the Chirper;

Chirper ; and in England, though the learned write me *Regulus*, I am commonly known as the Crested, or Gold-crested Wren.

In the description of my family, which will serve to distinguish myself, I shall separate it, first, into three principal divisions. Two of these are yellow ; the third, whose appearance is intirely different, is, perhaps, the most numerous, and it has received very flattering distinctions. These birds have even been said, but I apprehend jocosely, to rival their majesties, the Eagles. Reports have also been hawked about the bushes, by the Magpies, of battles* fought between

* The *Trochilus*, [little Top] or common Wren, is also called Chief, or King ; wherefore the Eagle is reported to fight with it. *Aristotle*, Book IX. Chap. 2.

the powers in support of this rivalry; but to these idle stories, I cannot pay the least credit. If ever a Wren opposed an Eagle it was in self-defence; and I will venture to say that, the contest was soon decided.

The branch of which I am now speaking consists of the little brown birds whose feathers are marked like those of the Woodcock. It has four sub-divisions: the first is the well-known inhabitant of the villages; the second differs from this in its appearance only by more brilliant shades, and it inhabits, among other places, the banks of the *de la Plata*, whence it sometimes enters the vessels in pursuit of flies. I remember hearing of one of these, who, upon some occasion

sion of this sort, was taken prisoner, and confined at *Buenos-Ayres* ; upon which account, it has been known by that name. The third class is the Wren of Louisiana : this is rather larger than the former, and has a plumage that is somewhat between the brown Wren and the yellow. The fourth is twice the size of the common Wren ; it lives in North America : visiting New-York in May, and retiring Southward in August.

The two remaining principal classes of Wrens almost entirely resemble each other in plumage ; but it is mine, only, that bears a crest. The crestless yellow Wren has no sub-division : but of Crested Wrens there are, like the brown Wrens, four ramifications.

The

The Crested Wren who differs least from myself, is that of Pennsylvania. He is one third larger than I am, and his crest has the colour of the ruby, rather than of the marygold: but the female part of that family has no crest whatever; whereas, all of mine are crested. The red-headed Wren, of the Cape of Good Hope, is peculiar to that part of Africa. He is still larger than the last; his wings are black, and his legs are reddish. Another family has settled in Greenland. I have had no personal acquaintance with these: but I am told that, they have also some relation to the Titmouse; that, part of their apparel is blue; and that, they wear scarlet crowns.

There

There is another tribe, called Titmouse-Wrens, residing in Cayenne, that partake, as its name fully indicates, of the characters of Titmice : it has, however, a jonquil-coloured crown, which sufficiently establishes its relationship with my family.

As it is right to distinguish myself from so various an assemblage of birds, with whom, it is possible, I might be confounded ; and as outside appearances have, necessarily, much importance in the opinion of the world ; I shall observe that my golden, or orange-coloured, crest is bordered with black along each side ; that a white ray passes over mine eyes, joins the black edging of my crown, and another black streak that surrounds each

each eye. My back, and the little coverts of my wings are of an olive yellow; my throat and breast of a bright rufous, inclining to olive on the sides; the feathers round my bill are whitish; and, from these, issue a few black bristles, like those of the Red-breast; the quills of my wings are brown, edged exteriorly with yellow: there are some black spots, and two of a dingy white upon each of my wings; the feathers of my tail are of a dun olive, mine eyes are chesnut, and my legs are yellowish. My total length is about three inches and an half, of which my body engrosses full one third; and my weight is almost an hundred grains.

I trust that, by the assistance of this minute description, I am in some degree

gree introduced to the reader's imagination; and that, now, the mental eye will always have it in its power to behold me.

Notwithstanding the general security of which I have boasted, and though open force is seldom fatal to any of my race, treachery frequently entraps us. Artificial calls invite us to the snare, and every autumn the shambles of Nuremberg are filled with gold-crested Wrens. Into this danger I was once betrayed. I was caught, and must soon have been destroyed, had not fortune with her own right hand delivered me. Saved from death, I was imprisoned in a gauze-covered-cage, and, while I deplored my condition, I was conveyed, in
the

the packet, from Hamburgh to the Thames.

Arrived in this, to me, a foreign country, I have, as is usual, paid more than ordinary attention to the scenes that I have witnessed : dragged from my native woods, I have, not unnaturally, looked back upon them with uncommon veneration, and indulged myself with minute recollections. Upon the tablet of my memory I trace, with holy admiration, in bright colours, and distinct contours, the piny landscapes and cavernous mountains of my country: I mark my favorite trees, their pale-green shoots, and their dewy leaves.—The remembrance of the past employs my feelings; the observation of the present

sent my understanding. I have wished to communicate the result of both: and where with better hopes than in Britain, which a french philosopher has called the country of learning and of kindness, can I venture to publish these pages, which are at once to astonish the learned, and rest upon the indulgence of the kind?



CHAP. II.

Some account of my infancy.

I was born within the territories of the duchy of Wirtemberg: a part of Swabia that borders upon France. The dwelling in which I was reared was an hollow ball, the walls and roof of which were composed of moss and spider-webs, lined with the softest down. It had no windows, and the only door was an exceeding private one. It was built among the ivy that crept up the buttress of a ruin which stands in an extensive forest. I had six brothers and sisters; and I remem-

remember the time when we were smaller than honey-bees. No crests then adorned our heads, nor no white spots our wings: but I know not whether any description will assist you to imagine the grotesqueness of my figure when, a moss-like-ball myself, I ventured from the nest, without tail or wings, crept up the slanting walls of the buttress, ran along the branches of ivy, and hung from the leaves by my sharp claws. You would have been pleased to see the little group which my brethren and myself composed, so busy among the berries of our native tree, so active to take the insect game that frequented our leafy plains, or found coverts in our thickets of blossoms. But, how-

ever amusive it might have been to you, it was real business to us. It was needful for our daily provision. You will not suppose that we employed our lives so wretchedly as to run about killing other creatures, merely because we had nothing else to do.

In a little time, our rapid growth and improvement induced our parents to leave us, during whole hours, intirely alone. Upon one occasion, nevertheless, we made manifest our indiscretion. It was a delightful afternoon, and we enjoyed it among the sculptured ornaments of our venerable ruin. Reposing upon the lip of a saxon head that decorated the gateway, I lost all recollection, and gazed
without

without intermission at the setting sun, and purple landscape. The mosses, and the lichens, that were now the best ornaments of an edifice with which pride itself was once satisfied, contributed the richest colours to the glowing scene ; and when I remembered how dingy and how dull those plants had seemed in cloudy weather, I thought that, even excellence needs some fortunate beam to give it lustre. But it was not only the walls of our ruin that I surveyed. Lofty pines, whose dark foliage was then richly empurpled, rose as I thought, into the very heavens. A lake received upon its still surface the splendor of the sky, and the shadows of the trees that dipped their over-hanging motionless

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tionless branches in its water. From its shallows the birds were retiring, and it was not till these had nearly disappeared, and I had heard the ravens cawing around the tops of the adjacent beeches, that I started from my reverie, and prepared to travel homeward.

I called aloud to my elder brother, and to the rest of my brethren, and said : “ How could you let me sit here
“ so long? The clouds of evening
“ have risen in the horizon : the mist
“ hovers over the lake, and hides the
“ trunks of the trees. The ravens are
“ going to roost, and owls will cer-
“ tainly be abroad before we get
“ home.”

My brothers and sisters rallied me in
return,

return, saying that, as I had made so many observations upon the time of day, it was myself that should have given notice of the approach of darkness. I found it impossible to defend myself against so many voices: so, giving up the point, I hastily joined them, and set an example of expeditious progress.

We performed the greater part of our journey with facility. It was only to go to the right through the clump of dandelion, and to the left of the crimson and the yellow calf's-snout, the leaves of which are always wet with the vapors that they attract; then, turning down by the tuft of fine grass, to cross the chapel-window, and immediately enter our own ivy: but,

but, before we reached this retreat, we fancied that we heard an owl: the air began to grow cool and heavy; we wanted to go to sleep, and we were rather alarmed by the red light that gleamed from the declining sun, and by the long, dark, and matted shadows that were projected by the grasses. These new appearances rendered of no use all our experience. We could scarcely distinguish the places to which we were most accustomed. We knew very well how to keep along the gray stone in one place, along the yellow, the rusty, the light or dark olive lichen in others; and where to cross the white: we knew what hills of moss we had to climb, what vallies to descend: we knew the marks in the walls

walls that served us for mile-stones: and we knew the general appearance of the objects that looked homeward or otherwise; but every thing was altered. We lost our time in scrambling round shadows which we imagined to be pits; and so thoroughly were we deceived that, the brink appearing otherwise than I had ever seen it, I actually fell down a chink from which wood-pigeons had picked away the mortar. I was at the bottom of the precipice in a moment, and heard, without being able to reply, the voices of my sisters, who lamented my disaster, and of my brothers who, desired me to make haste up, "and never mind it."

For my own part, I had already
despaired

despaired of escape from my situation, when I heard the voice of one of my brothers, more distinctly than before, and turning toward the sound, I beheld a broad opening, down the whole depth of the cavern, through any part of which three of us might have passed a-breast. I had scarcely discovered this when I saw my brother's head peeping in, with becoming caution. On this, I recovered my voice : but no sooner did I use it, than my poor brother started back, with every symptom of terror. I ran after him, and found that, by this time, all my brothers and sisters had come down to assist me.

The exultation of our hearts on surmounting this misfortune, took from
us,

us, during some moments, all memory of our first dilemma. Recollecting ourselves, at length, we made all the haste in our power, and arrived, after many difficulties, among the ivy that I have already mentioned. The owl hooted again. We passed, trembling, along certain smooth branches, and others ragged, as ivy-branches frequently are. We knew our way by the spots upon the leaves, by little variations in their shapes, or by the sides that they presented towards us. We passed, not without regret, several collections of insects' eggs, promising ourselves to eat them in the morning. At last, we arrived at an opening by which our parents had once led us as a shorter way than the common.

common. Distance was never of more consequence to us than on that occasion, wherefore, we resolved to take the nearest way. We had not proceeded far before we found ourselves to be intirely ignorant of the road. We knew neither how to return, nor to go forward. We took our course at random ; and, after wandering about to no purpose, we began to lose every hope of arriving at home that night. Some were too tired to proceed : some gave themselves up to affliction. In this situation, I proposed that, one, at least, of our party should go to the outer branches of the ivy, and look if any thing like hope, that had left our shades, might be discovered in the ample prospect. The
sugges-

suggestion was well received by my brethren. I was famous for enterprise; upon which account, I was commissioned to execute my design. I crept along a branch that led directly outward, and having looked about very carefully, that I might find the way again, I advanced to the last leaf of the spray, and surveyed the scene before me. It was not dark: the sun had disappeared; but there remained along the horizon some semblance of his glory: the moths were not come out: but, except the Nightingale, to whose song I listened, all the birds were at rest.

I imagined, from the objects that I saw, that, we were very near our own nest; and I called out as loudly as

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I could:

I could : " We are lost, we are lost." I fancied that I heard a reply, and I was about to repeat my complaint : but a bat darted swiftly along, and deprived me of all my courage. I returned in haste to my brethren, and endeavoured to comfort them with an assurance that, we were nearly at home, and that, night was by no means closed in.

It was so dark under the leaves that, my assertion, notwithstanding its truth, afforded but little consolation. We began our march again, but arriving soon at a large bank of moss, and other warm materials, we unanimously agreed to remain there till morning.

If you have ever heard the babbling
of

of a parcel of chickens when they nestle together for sleep, you may almost think that you hear our little clamor upon this occasion. But our expressions were not altogether of the same description. They were not only such as these : " Get off my toes ! " let me put my wing down, and then " I will sit close. What shall we do " in the morning ? I must have my " head up ! "—our murmurings were upon more serious subjects ; and though, every now and then, we were frightened into total silence, by the terrific cries of the owls, we presently resumed our voices and our complaints.

Soon, however, we were stopped by a voice that relieved us by a sudden emotion of pleasure, from our grief

and dismay. It was the voice of our mother, who said: "Why do you stay outside? It is late already!"

We were much surprized by these words. We could tell neither whence they came, nor their meaning. We had no inclination to stay outside. We listened attentively, and presently heard the voice again. To our complete astonishment, we discovered that, the sound came from under our feet. While we were silent from amazement, our mother came; and she showed us that, at the time we were lamenting our incapacity of finding the house, we were really assembled upon its top.

When we first assembled there, our mother was out in search of us; and

and our father, who had taken a different route, did not return for a considerable time. We were under great apprehensions for his safety ; but he presently arrived without any accident. We learned that, the cause of our mistake when we were actually upon the nest was, its very different formation withinside and without. For though perfect neatness and form is preserved internally, it outwardly exhibits only a shapeless heap of moss, and other materials—by this means it is frequently preserved from destroyers, who would not overlook it, if it bore the appearance of workmanship.

CHAP. III.

Separation of Birds not painful;—The Hawk :—Nature of Laudanum, or Opium, and the method of gathering that drug—Childish Mischief :—Story of the Storks.

AS it is the custom of our race to quit the nest before we are fledged, it will not appear extraordinary that, in a short time we entirely forsake it. Our little family lived in perfect happiness. We parted without design, and without troubling ourselves by the idea of eternal, or even long, separation.

There is a frankness and the reverse of bashfulness in our character
that,

that, leads us to speedy and almost indiscriminate acquaintance. We make companions of Creepers, Titmice, all the varieties of Wrens, and of every other bird whose size and habits bear any resemblance to our own. From our earliest days, it was our practice to mingle with every bird of this sort that we happened to meet, and to associate with them in whatever our strength permitted. This habit increased with our capacities; and we were often separated from each other for several days together. The frequency of these privations prevented us from suffering any uneasiness; and as we found that, after intervals, of whatever duration, we met together again, we were saved from the

the affliction of thinking—*this farewell is our last!*

A troop of Wrens and other birds, who had passed the night in our neighbourhood, joined us one morning while we were picking our breakfast. Each helped himself according to his taste: neither plenty nor variety were wanting. Nature is so liberal that, her board is always covered, even to profusion, whether the guests come or not; and she mingles all foods, seeds, herbs, insects, fruits, upon the same foot of ground, as if she would promote friendly intercourse among all her creatures, by inviting them to a *table d'hôte*, a common table.

While we were thus enjoying our meal, one of the party perceived an hawk,

hawk, and he communicated the dreadful circumstance to the rest. We were immediately overcome with consternation. Terror prevented flight, and even flight scarcely promised escape. At this moment, the report of a gun reverberated through the forest: we forgot the hawk, and even our companions. Every one flew away: without considering whither he should go; or, what benefit change of place could bestow.

An interval of silence, that was not without its horrors, followed the discharge of the gun. At first, flocks of birds hastened for shelter among the trees; but, after this, no creature was to be seen, nor no sound to be heard: the very leaves and herbage seemed to
refrain

refrain from motion. One might have imagined that, the forest was thus silent either through indignance at the violation of its peace, or, respect for its unfortunate inhabitants.

In a little time, I saw some of my companions alight upon the ground. I joined them, and we rambled together during the whole morning.

We visited a castle upon the top of a lofty mountain, whence the country, covered with autumnal fog, appeared like a vast ocean. By degrees, other mountains and castles became perceptible, and appeared like so many islands on the bosom of the sea. Than this prospect, what could present us with a more sublime idea of the power of the Deity, or of the grandeur of his unseen

seen creation ! As the grey veil retired, a sunny landscape presented itself: vineyards, villages, corn-fields, woods, and palaces, arose from amid our fancied ocean. A world was created while we looked on. The golden summits of the hills, covered with sheep with dazzling white fleeces, had scarcely appeared before they were lost again in mists, and the valleys, in their turn, discovered their green meadows; some brightened by the beams of day, others overspread with shade. As the morning advanced, the vapours ascended toward the middle heaven; the mountain-heads became dusky and colourless, and, here and there, along their rocky sides, the last lingering clouds were dissipated.

dissipated. Roads, farms, and streams, were all beneath our feet, and at a distance, the Danube winded along. This river, in its course of thirteen hundred miles, flows through Swabia, Bavaria, Austria, Hungary, and through Moldavia in the Turkish dominions, where it loses itself in the Euxine. It receives the waters of twelve broad streams, and of more than eighty rivulets; and fifty cities are seated along its banks. The German contends for the glory of this river, in preference of all the rivers of the world: but the Turk, with the grandeur of eastern sentiment, asserts the superior majesty of the Nile, that has its sources in the Mountains of the Moon in the interior of Africa, because its waves
have

have been less frequently stained with human blood.

When the heat of noon approached, we retired to an adjacent thicket. Our stomachs were satisfied, and a short time having passed in dressing our feathers, the business of the morning was accomplished, and we entered into full conversation. There were upon the adjoining branches, birds of various feather, natives of different places. Some had rambled little, others were great travellers, but all had stories to tell. A crested-wren had even come from Candia, the island formerly called Crete. He had crossed the sea to Morea upon the sail-yard of a Turkish galley, and having passed by Corinth, had flown over

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the gulph of Lepanto ; and after many wanderings, and a longer flight, had gained Italy at the castle of Otranto. He was anxious to tell us how laudanum was reaped ; for he had been at the harvest. The shrub, he said, grows to the height of two feet and an half, and bears flowers that somewhat resemble those of the sweet briar. It thrives among sandy hillocks, he said, and the juice distils through the leaves. In ancient days, besides using the proper instrument, it was customary to comb the juice from oft the beards and hair of the goats who broused upon the shrub. The time for reaping is in the middle of the day, when no wind is stirring to bring dust upon the juice. Then, with an instrument

ment like an hay-rake that is furnished with a double row of long straps of leather instead of teeth, which is trailed over the plants, the reaper walks along till the straps are loaded with the clammy juice ; and having scraped off the laudanum with a knife, he renews the operation.

A Titmouse next informed us that, it was only a few days since he left Stutgard. He had seen the funeral of a clergyman, whose life had been rendered miserable by the childish trick of a playfellow. When he was very young, some thoughtless boy thrust a bean into his ear. It remained there till it had struck root ; and at last was not extracted without imminent danger of his life. As he grew up, a

tumor was formed in his mouth, of the size of a pullet's egg, which must have suffocated him, had it not been burned away. This cure was accomplished at the end of three months that were employed in agonizing operations. Six hundred times, red hot irons were put into his mouth.*

A sparrow informed us that, having for several years possessed a retreat beneath a roof at the university of Tübingen, he had witnessed there an event which he persuaded himself would be considered as worthy to be recorded. From his first acquaintance with the place, the sparrow said, he

* This misfortune, the relation of which may be of much advantage, befel M. Gramlech, afterward chaplain to the court of Wirtemberg, who died about the year, 1728.

had

had been accustomed to observe in one of the court-yards of the university, a tame stork, who lived peaceably among a collection of poultry. It happened that a student, count *Victor Gravenitz*, discharged a piece at the nest of a wild stork, that was built contiguous to the college. The ball wounded, in all probability, the stork who was sitting in the nest. This circumstance happened in autumn, immediately before the migration of the foreign storks. When spring returned, and storks again visited Germany, one of these birds was observed upon the roof of the college. By incessant chattering, it gave the tame stork who walked in the court-yard as before, to understand that, it

was desirous of its company. But the wings of the domiciliated bird having been clipped, it was not in its power to comply with the invitation. Observing this, the stranger, with much precaution, came down to the upper gallery. It had not courage, at first, to descend lower; but, the next day, he came to an under gallery, and after some time, and much hesitation, he alighted in the court itself. The tame stork went to meet with a soft cheerful note, when, to the astonishment of every one, the other fell in upon him with the utmost fury. It appeared that the wild stork imagined the tame stork to be guilty of the outrage that had, in the preceding year, been committed upon him; and he was, perhaps,

haps, more ready to lay this offence to the charge of the tame stork, on account of a secret dislike to the bird who did not practise the same habits of life with the rest of his species.

The spectators present interfered in this instance, and drove away the wild stork; but not intimidated by this, he returned the next day to the attack, and during the whole summer, continual skirmishes took place. A gentleman of authority in the college, gave orders that the tame stork should not be assisted, since he had but a single antagonist to encounter; and the bird finding himself obliged to depend upon his own exertion, was always the better prepared. He defended

fended himself so well, that at the end of the season the stranger could boast of but little advantage.

In the following spring, however, the stork returned with three others; and these, without any diffidence descended at once into the college area, and instantly attacked the tame stork. The bird defended himself with incredible valour, and almost outstripped human warriors in the address and boldness of his conduct. Not one of his assailants escaped without a wound; but at length, overpowered by superior numbers, and covered with blood, his strength began to fail, and his conquest seemed completed.

At this moment, the most unexpected relief presented itself. All the turkies,

turkies, ducks, geese, and the rest of the fowls with whom the stork had lived, and who were attached to him because of his mild and friendly behaviour, advanced at once, and overcoming the dread of danger, they surrounded their distressed companion, and defended him against his enemies. But if the friendship of these excite admiration, what shall we say of the generosity of a peacock, who had always expressed a positive aversion to the stork, but who, on the present occasion, regardless of private animosity, and without the enthusiasm of affection, was among the first to espouse the cause of justice ; and who, by his loud authoritative voice, his strong limbs, and splendid habiliments,

ments, contributed greatly to the success of the interposition. An honourable retreat was secured to the tame stork, and the four invaders were compelled to quit the court-yard under so much disadvantage that, during the remainder of the season, they never renewed the attack.

The whole of this extraordinary engagement was witnessed by many spectators in the galleries, some of whom were with difficulty restrained from assisting the stork. Among these, count Victor was particularly conspicuous: for he considered himself as the cause of the poor stork's misfortunes.

After this day, strict attention was paid to prevent the incursions of the enemy,
and

and the effusion of blood: but, about the beginning of the third spring, more than twenty storks suddenly alighted in the area, and before the tame stork's faithful life guards could assist him, or any persons of the college, he was destroyed by the numerous army. Their conquest, however was bought dearly: for with his usual bravery, he defended himself to the last.*

* The truth of this story may be depended upon.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

The mysterious Castle—the misfortunes that befel me
on entering it.

WE all listened attentively to the story which the sparrow related ; and we considered it as one of the most important that was ever recorded of what are called *brute* creatures. It cannot be doubted that the wild stork considered the attack of count Victor Gravenitz as in some way caused by the tame bird. This plain fact, unaccompanied by other circumstances, would be sufficient to prove that these creatures are not without observation :
that

that they know when they are injured, and when they are benefited, and by whom. The return of the stork assisted by others, after a period of, at least six months, shews not only that they are capable of communicating their ideas to others of their species, and of doing this so completely as to engage them to act a part in their designs; and that they feel a regard for each other which can induce them to give their assistance. It also shews that, they know persons and places again by sight; and that their memory retains the idea of transactions of which those persons or places were the causes or the scenes. If the stork had been a mere animal machine, he could have remembered his wound no longer than

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he felt its pain. The continuation of the attacks, and the increase of forces during three years, serve to prove more strongly that which has been already advanced: The poultry displayed virtues that can need no comment.

In the afternoon we dispersed in search of food. I rambled from place to place through the fertile fields of Wirtemberg, and in the course of a few days, I passed Tübingen myself. I did not fail to visit the roofs of the University, and, after some difficulty, I found, by the sparrow's description, the very court in which the extraordinary battles took place. I regarded with veneration the spot upon which oppressed innocence had suffered,
and

and which had been ennobled by such generous friendship.

Passing northward, I crossed the Necker, and, a week after this, I arrived in Franconia. I left with inconsiderate wing, the country in which I was born, and continued travelling till I reached the suburbs of Nuremberg. I found, by report, and by comparison, that Wirtemberg has fewer rugged districts and barren mountains than the other countries of Germany, but Franconia had abundance of all that I desired.

I had not enjoyed many days in the neighbourhood of Nuremberg, before I joined a merry party of birds, the greater part of whom were crested-wrens, and with these I entered an

unfrequented forest. Among some lofty firs, we saw a wooden building, with one small window. We had scarcely discovered this edifice when we heard the voice of a Wren inviting us to enter it. On approaching somewhat nearer, we saw a blue titmouse, at the window of whom we asked some account of the building? The Wren that spoke from within made so much noise that our enquiries could not be heard: but invitations louder than ever issued from the window. There was something of mystery in the appearance of this castle; we continued during some time in doubt whether it would be proper to yield to the invitation. We spent more than an hour in flying round the building, which

which we discovered to have three sides, supported by beams against three firs. In each of these sides there was a little window; and at each window a titmouse. This bird did nothing but jump to and fro, within a very small space, sometimes carelessly twittering.

We felt great curiosity concerning the inside of this place, but I know not how long we might have sat looking at it, had not some birds from an opposite quarter entered one of the windows. We could resist no longer. At the same window, fast following each other, myself and about one hundred others immediately poured in. I was among the last; and as I entered I heard only the most dread-

ful screams. I had no leisure wherein to conjecture the cause. I went in because the next before me did so, and because others were pressing on my heels.

The mystery of the day was explained. The castle, the loud invitation, the titmice, were now no longer beyond our comprehension: but dearly did we pay for the elucidation of these secrets! In a moment we found ourselves the captives of bird-catchers.

We were thrown by handful into a long flat box. In this dungeon we were piled upon one another as if we had been dead, and in a little time, the greater part were really so. Over the box a thick cloth was thrown,

thrown, and toward evening we were carried to the hovel of the bird-catcher.

Pressed as I was on every side, and intirely deprived of air, life seemed nearly overcome. I heard faint cries from some of my companions; but few were able to utter even these. Our limbs were thrown in every possible way, and it was not in our power to use the least motion. One of my wings was under the whole weight of another; one of my feet was forced into the beak of a bird, who bit it in expiring, which I was not able to withdraw; and the nails of another bird pierced my breast. The sensations of misery that I suffered were acute; but benevolent nature

nature would not suffer them to be durable. There is a point at which every thing must stop; and pain and ruin have an end. In a little time my pulses seemed to cease; and by degrees a soft delirium took possession of what remained of life. In this state, the mind does not altogether invent new, but rather distorts, newly colours, and changes the places of real circumstances. The warm and downy feathers of the dead and dying were, in my weak imagination, the nest in which I was born; the cries of the sufferers lost the bitterness of their anguish, and were only the little plainings of my brothers and sisters, for the return of our father and our mother. My nerves
grew

grew paralyzed, and were no longer tortured by the pressure of sharp claws, which I now fancied to be only the little feet of my brother. I heard their noises again: I looked out from the nest: I saw the forest, the lake, the swans upon its surface, the bright rising sun: I, too, was hungry: I uttered a little cry; but nature soon ceased to want: I believed that our parents returned, and I was satisfied.

Early in the morning, for poverty rises before day-break, in the coldest hours, the bird-catcher lifted our box to carry us to market. He handled it roughly, but how should the wretched be kind? Unhappiness softens the heart; but these people
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are not unhappy, they are miserable. Having been dragged and jolted through narrow and filthy lanes, we came to the market-place. The bird-catcher disposed of his load and departed. The wholesale purchaser began to sort his birds, and as I lay near the top, I was soon uncovered. This relief produced but little alteration in me: but though I exhibited no signs of life, I began to know what passed. The air was full of the stench of decaying vegetables; and of ardent spirits; and of the sounds of abusive language, quarrelling, the clanking of the horses' iron shoes, the execrations of their drivers, and the rumbling of carts. Our purchaser was soon taken away from
her

her employment by the noise of a battle; and, as she presently joined in it herself, it was long before she returned.

About two hours having passed, I heard the ringing of a bell, which continued some time. A few minutes after this had ceased, the market - woman returned to her shamble, and proceeded in her work. During her absence I had recovered so much of vigour that, when she put her hand for the next bird, I sometimes managed to avoid her fingers when I chanced to be in their way. I confess that I knew nothing of what she was doing with the birds she took; I had a prodigious aversion to yielding myself to her

her hand, even though the change of place might have afforded me, I thought, an opportunity of escape.



CHAP.

CHAP. V.

The Packet-Boat.

I HAD four times avoided the grasp of the market-woman, when I heard her addressed by the voice of another person. It was that of a lady, who inquired whether she could have one of those pretty little yellow-headed birds alive? A young lady that she had in charge had expressed her concern at the destruction of so many beautiful birds, and her wish to preserve one at least, and to possess it.

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The market-woman replied that the young lady might have as many as she chose : but upon examination, considerable difficulty occurred in the attempt to find a single bird who could be made to stand upon its legs. After some time, I was hauled out by the neck, and declared to be as brisk as ever, only a little sleepy. The young lady received me with great eagerness, emptied her purse for the purchase, and put me into it for security.

When she arrived at home, she found that, notwithstanding I had gained strength during my carriage in the open air, it was scarcely probable that I could live. Her friends told her that she had been cheated, that she had bought a dying bird,
and

and given too much money; but she who had no other sentiments than those of nature, found her whole solicitude engaged, not upon the value of a bargain, but the possibility of relieving pain, of succouring innocence, of preserving a life, and of restoring beauty. She endeavoured to replace my disordered feathers, and performed an hundred offices for which I thank her, not because they were pleasing or useful to me, but because they were well-intended.

I was kept in a dutch painted box that was covered with gauze; one half of the bottom of this was carefully and benevolently covered with moss, and the other with gravel. Food and water were served me in

G 2 abundance.

abundance. In short, I should at that time, when my debility made me unanxious respecting freedom, have been exceedingly happy had my kind guardian been less attentive. When I was comfortably extended upon the moss, she wished me to peck the gravel: well, upon the gravel she placed me, saying: "peck my pretty little creature." In the mean time, I felt about as much inclination for this, as for the diversion of swimming in a fish-pond. She placed me upon the gravel, and I, weak and fearful, continued to lay there. I had rather have lain upon the moss, but I was resigned to every thing. The young lady soon altered my situation. To lay upon the gravel,
instead

instead of eating it, she regarded as most preposterous behaviour. Now she dipped my bill into water, but I did not drink, then she pressed it upon some food, but I did not eat. Upon this, she concluded that I must be very sick. She kissed me, told me with tears that I must go to bed, and after much 'tender strife' between us, in which I used all my strength to resist being buried, she covered me with moss, leaving only my beak open to the air. She had scarcely accomplished this task before I undid it all, and, weak as I was, contrived to get rid of the weight that was upon me.

Notwithstanding the want of judgment that distinguished some of my

nurse's contrivances, I was under great obligations to her tenderness ; and he that minds the falling of a sparrow to reward, perhaps, her beneficent cares, raised me once again into vigorous life.

Confined myself in a box, at least making my widest circuits upon a tea-table, it cannot be supposed that I formed any correct ideas of space, or motion ; but, after some time, I found that I had been brought to Ham-
burgh ; and my guardian was about to embark with the packet for England.

Accordingly we went on board a small and gaily-painted vessel, that displayed a small white flag, bearing the figure of a black eagle. Many passengers were in the cabin, britons
and

and germans. Among them I particularly noticed a sea-faring man who handed about a bottle of hollands, was exceedingly facetious, and always laughed heartily at his wit; a lady's maid, who carried her cat in two handkerchiefs; and a scotchman who offended the last by proposing that the animal should be released.

The scotchman told us that he had been to Russia with merchandise that was prohibited by the emperor, Paul; and that, returning from this unsuccessful expedition, he had been shipwrecked. This gentleman had sustained much hardship, and the condition of his dress was rather unfavourable to his various attempts at conversation with the company.

After

After many unfortunate efforts, he addressed himself to my young mistress: and paid some compliments to her, of which, as he possessed much vivacity and politeness, he was very capable; he asked the lady in whose care she was, what might be the age of her daughter?

The lady replied that the little girl was twelve years old: she added: "she is not my daughter." After some remarks, the lady proceeded to tell the whole story of my mistress:

She was the daughter of an english lady and gentleman who once resided at Grenada. Her mother, upon some particular business, had returned to England; but some time had elapsed since any intelligence arrived

arrived from her. Mean while, her father had died; and she, with her brother, were left unprovided for among strangers. Her brother was under the protection of a merchant, in whose accompting-house he would soon, at least, be useful.

It happened that, when her mother went first to Grenada, she was a fellow-passenger with the wife of the post-master of that place. This lady, remembering now her acquaintance, had agreed with the master of a vessel to bring her to England, hoping that she might there find her mother. It was the wife of this West-India captain who related this story, and who was the guardian of the young lady. On their arrival
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in England, every inquiry concerning her mother had proved fruitless. Their visit to Germany had no connection with that inquiry: but the captain's wife having occasion to go there, my mistress had accompanied her. Since their departure from England they had received some information that rendered a discovery possible: "but happen what may," said the guardian of my mistress, "she shall not want."

The scotchman found by this lady's conversation, that she was a compatriot. Taking off his hat, he said: "you are one of my own country: "you have done the thing that is "right, and I am sure that you will "go well through it."

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There was a grandeur in this scene that, whatever notice it might deserve in a packet-boat, would not have passed unadmired at a theatre; because the audience there would have been prepared for something fine, and have had their feelings in waiting.

The address of the scotchman bore some resemblance to the beginning of the poem to the memory of HOWARD, by the Reverend W. L. Bowles.

O, mortal, that with holy fortitude

The path of good right-onward hast pursued.

There is great energy in the words 'right-onward,' and they will, perhaps, appear with additional force, if
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we remember two other lines in a poem by Mr. B. '*On leaving a Place of Residence.*'

After this story, the scotchman learned that her name was Sarah; and he paid her very particular attention. He had a vivacity in his eye that indicated much spirit of enterprize: he seemed full of information, and was very well qualified to communicate it. He told Sarah that the spires and domes of Petersburg, the metropolis of Russia, were gilt intirely over: a piece of finery that did not, in his opinion, add much to its grandeur; but it may be observed, that it is an excellent expedient to cheer the prospect of such a climate as Petersburgh, which
city

city is situate in that part of Russia that is washed by the Baltic ; and this gilding is, I believe, customary in most of the cities of northern Europe. He told her, likewise, that a new church was building in that city ; that the whole outside was of marble ; and that, he believed, it would be the largest and most magnificent in the world. Amid all this pomp of greatness, however, the common streets were extremely narrow. Indeed, it is generally allowed that, the Russian court is the most splendid, and the Russian people the most wretched, in the world.

Notwithstanding his good sense, this gentleman was too much inclined to a degree of levity in his manners,

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that exposed him to the familiarity of every one. On his own part, he never forgot the most delicate attention to the feelings of others, and the respect that was due to them; but the rest of the company were not equally refined. He was capable of making himself the companion of the lowest persons, yet to these he behaved with a politeness that was not returned. He was in high spirits on account of his arrival; and this accounted, in some measure, for his behaviour. I should be sorry if it were his usual habit, for the company treated him as a buffoon.

A person present requested him to sing. I believe that he felt himself addressed as a merry-andrew: but in
this

this instance he evinced his good breeding. He did not shew himself to be offended, nor did he hesitate to comply: but, in complying, he turned the matter into a jest. He sang what he called his favorite song :

The king of France, with forty thousand men,
Marched up an hill; and then—marched down again!

Most of the passengers laughed at this: but there was one who thought it essential to decorum, to comply with the scotchman's humour, by bestowing applauses on his song.

After some minutes were passed, the scotchman said to the person that had asked him to sing: " Now, Sir; " I believe, it is my turn to call upon " you for a song?"

The other declined singing. I saw that the scotchman was hurt—he would not have behaved so.—There could not be a more direct breach of politeness, than the act of setting one man to amuse the company, and then refusing to assist. But the scotchman, in a few moments, recovered his gaiety.



CHAP. VI.

A VISIT.

AFTER a pleasant voyage, the packet arrived in the Thames. I was immediately carried on shore, and conveyed, in a coach, to the house of my mistress.

A few days having elapsed, several young people came to visit Sarah, and to congratulate her upon her safe return. It would have been extraordinary, indeed, if I had not been introduced both as a stranger and a curio-

sity. When I had been thoroughly examined, and when my novelty had, in some measure, ceased, I was suffered to be a quiet hearer and spectator.

The greater part of the strangers were older than Sarah. Harriet had left school at the holidays, where, during the latter three months, she had been instructed in the use of the globes: this lady seemed desirous of subjecting the whole company to a geographical catechism, in order that she might display her learning. Octavia had lately been introduced to Roman history; and she imagined the names *Cæsar* and *Pompeius* to be as new to others as they were to herself; Arabella was then learning music; and

and having that day, after much difficulty, repeated the technical phrases with her master, she could talk of nothing but bars, cliffs, *andante*, and *da capo*. In short, all the young visitors were bent upon puzzling one another. They laboured under a grievous, but common mistake: they were anxious to convince others that themselves possessed superior attainments; while the true art of pleasing consists in rendering your companion happy in his own—and thus you will best contribute to his future improvement—for you give him spirits to go on. As he advances, he will himself discover his errors and insufficiency: you need not force upon yourself the disagreeable task of pointing out either.

But

But though these school pedants offended against good manners, by an ostentatious display of knowledge, their youth, the novelty of science to them, and the natural ambition of acquiring a reputation for the accomplishments those of a more advanced age possess, may satisfactorily plead their excuse.

There was one, however, whose qualifications and talents were shamefully disfigured by behaviour that is too frequently practised. Hester had learned from certain novels, that affect to detail witty conversations, a taste for a degree of impertinence, nay, of rudeness, in reply, which she called a smart repartee. I should not have adverted to this character, but that I have observed it to be very prevalent ;

valent; and, in more than one instance, of dangerous consequence; and I think myself right in attributing its encouragement, at least, to *some* novels, because I have found many of their pages together entirely devoted to this intellectual prize-fighting. It may be useful to remark that, in writing, such language, though not commendable, proceeds from a very natural cause; but in speaking, it is as unnatural as it is unpleasant.

A writer makes his characters say what he pleases, and he may spend as much time as he will in forming acute and pithy replies; or having contrived witty replies, he may haul in some booby for the very purpose of making him their butt. Meantime,
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in conversation, men of the greatest genius acknowledge, that they recollect what would have been a good reply, half an hour after they might have used it. Add to this, as writers have no fear of hurting the feelings of their imaginary speakers; they have no dread of their resentments; and as, shut up in their closets, they are released from the laws of social decorum; it is not wonderful that they should indulge themselves with sallies of this sort: but I do not believe them if they say that these are true imitations of colloquial intercourse, nor can I commend their labours if they hold them out as models to be copied.

These few lines of criticism will, I trust, be useful, and if so, they will
not

not need apology. With respect to the censure that I cast upon these ladies, I shall observe that, in their future life, all such errors may cease: but even this does not uniformly happen; and it cannot be without advantage, that I advise those whose capacities and merits are sullied by such habits, to discontinue them as soon as possible. They are, in general, the foibles of excellent, but immature understanding: yet they are sometimes suffered to plant affectation and incivility in the mind, that occupy the time of improvement, and the place of goodness.

It is not necessary, however, that we should confine our view of these improprieties to their influence upon
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the higher parts of our conduct : the consideration will be very important, if we regard them merely as inconsistent with politeness : which is, rightly considered, the perpetual practice of urbanity. Politeness has introduced certain ceremonies ; and it is the misfortune of ceremonies that, their spirit and meaning are soon forgotten. There are no general forms that may not sometimes be absurdly applied ; and sometimes more honoured by neglect than by observance. Good sense is always necessary : but the vulgar are apt to place their whole attention upon a form. Hence politeness has, by another sort of vulgar, been unjustly traduced : these call themselves ‘ upright and downright’ people ;

people ; and they are guilty of every rudeness, because it is ‘ their way.’ I have said thus much, in order that, before I defend politeness, I may not be supposed to have engaged in the frivolous task of enjoining you to make a bow, or to take away a tea-cup—actions that no one of good sense would omit upon proper occasions—but which are so far from being politeness itself, that both might be done, in manner and occasion, very unpolitely.

I wish to call your attention to the spirit of politeness. I cannot be at your heels incessantly to dictate what you should do—and you will not suppose that twenty-pages full of written rules, can convey to you all the instructions

tions that should regulate your conduct in an infinite variety of situations: but if you have benevolence, taste, and a good understanding, you may safely be your own guide. You will, in that case, always endeavour to please; you will do this in the most graceful way; and you will instantly perceive what is right and becoming in you to do. If you are capable of this, I do not know how you can be unpolite. It is possible, indeed, that you may possess all these qualifications, and yet, through timidity, be unable to regulate your behaviour when in company with others. Timidity, or bashfulness, is, truly, a disadvantage: it causes a silence that is, by some, mistaken for dulness, and,

and, by the vulgar, for pride : but it is a disadvantage that will gradually retire from him that frequents society : for though it seems to forbid your coming forward, it is no sooner opposed than it flies : meanwhile, every day in which you shun conversation, renders you less fit to enjoy it. Bashfulness is very easily conquered—good sense must save you from running into the opposite extreme.

Politeness then, is the practice of benevolence—of the minor, the every-day-virtues. The word means, *polished, refined*. Politeness, consequently, is the true end of philosophy : we must not abandon it to the discretion of a dancing-master, or a *master of the ceremonies*.

In order to shew that politeness is a sentiment, and not a mere *etiquette*, it may be sufficient to remember an anecdote of lord Stair, whose behaviour was preferred by the French king, to all the frivolities of his own court. Lord Stair had the reputation of uncommon politeness, and the king resolved to put it to the test. Accordingly, in the presence of some noblemen who, together with lord Stair, were about to accompany the king in his carriage, he put the British peer forward, saying: "Step in, my lord." Lord Stair, without hesitation, stepped into the carriage before the king, to the astonishment of the courtiers; who imagined that, politeness required that he should have made an hundred protestations

protestations against being guilty of so much indecorum: but the king ever afterward acknowledged this nobleman to be the politest man he had ever known.

Such a refinement of politeness, however, may only be useful when exhibited toward persons equally refined. But politeness teaching you to aim always at pleasing others, rather than ostentatiously displaying your good breeding, which would be extremely unpolite, you can never be at a loss as to what you ought to do. If you are really polite, your behaviour in a cottage and in a drawing room will be very different: but in both cases you will seek to please those with whom you mingle. If you mix

with persons who think that politeness requires a number of ceremonies and fine speeches, you must not then behave with refined and delicate politeness: if you do, they will consider you too clownish to understand, or too haughty to return, their civilities: you must not suffer them to adopt either of these opinions: for the one dishonors your understanding, and the other your heart. If, therefore, you meet with people who ‘ knows what good breeding is: for all their family were gentle-folks, they’ll assure you,’ you had better run your head in their faces, than not make a bow.

But, if you are fortunate enough to mix with persons of real refinement, you may behave with all the elegance of goodness. You may then practise
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that politeness, which consists in a tenderness to the feelings, a deference to the understanding, and a humane willingness to contribute to the comfort, and to share the labors of those with whom you associate.

After a conversation that suggested to me the foregoing remarks, a little story was read for the entertainment of the company, and I shall recite it, for yours: because, if it have no other claim to your attention, it affords some idea of CHINESE manners: and this sort of knowledge is highly favorable to that spirit of good fellowship with all mankind, which it is so desirable to cultivate. Whoever introduces a stranger to your acquaintance, assists the increase of philanthropy: for ignorance is the usual cause of enmity.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Story of Hoang, the Chinese Merchant.

IT is related that, in the city of Nankin, the capital of a province of China, there resided Hoang, an honest and industrious merchant. The labors of his youth were rewarded with the blessings of abundance. He employed the poor, and he succoured the weak; he undertook works of public utility; and he used his wealth for the benefit of the community.

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The vice-roy of that province saw, with envy, the riches of Hoang; and he heard, with displeasure, the praises that were perpetually bestowed upon his name: for he regarded them as so many reproaches upon his own worthlessness. The rapacious governor soon invented a pretext which, covered with some shew of justice, his iniquitous proceedings. He caused a report to be circulated, purporting that the merchant had fraudulently obtained his fortune; and he caused his emissaries to persuade the people that Hoang had become rich with too much rapidity for honest means. Having spread abroad these opinions, he no longer concealed his intention of seizing the property of the merchant.

Having

Having received information of this design, Hoang studied to elude the grasp of the vice-roy, who, armed with the power of the most just of kings, employed his strength to plunder those whom it was his duty to protect. Hoang called together his children, and informed them of the plot that was framed against him by the avaricious oppressor. He told them that he had contrived a scheme, by means of which he hoped to baffle the robber. He divided his property among them, and made himself dependent upon them for his own support.

The vice-roy, however, who shrunk not from any excess of guilt, rendered his precaution of no avail. He
sent

sent the sons of Hoang to the army; he left his daughter destitute; he seized the whole of their possessions, and left the aged father to beg his bread. He petitioned humbly, he besought with tears: but his petitions and his tears were disregarded; and the governor added insult and contempt to his outrage.

Awakened from his humility, by the contumely of the oppressor, and goaded by want and despair, he arose, and resolved to appeal to the feet of the imperial sovereign.

He submitted to beg his way to Peking, where the emperor resides. He left his wife at Nankin, and began his long and painful journey. It was fortunate for this wretched traveller,

veller, that his pilgrimage commenced about the period of the new year, when festivity and merry-making was universal. At the hospitable banquets of the season, he was received with cheerful welcome. Previous to the meal, offerings of food were made to the Joss, a wooden idol of the house, before which a curtain was drawn: besides animal food, bread, and fruit, with three small cups of wine, spirits, and vinegar, were placed upon the domestic altar. After making three obeisances, or prostrations to the idol, the repast was carried to the front of the house, where the people kneeled down, and prayed during some minutes. Then, having several times,

times, beat their heads upon the ground, they arose, and threw the contents of the three cups to the right hand and to the left. Small pieces of gilt paper were next lighted, and held over the meat; and, after this, strings of small crackers were also lighted, and being suspended over the meat from a cane, were suffered to explode. The whole being a second time placed before the Joss, and the prostrations being repeated, the company sat down to a joyous dinner, where great plenty of spirits were served. At night, magnificent displays of fire-works were made. These ceremonies and rejoicings were continued during several days, while Hoang passed from village to

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village,

village, partaking of the bounty of each. He arrived, at length, at a town where he met a marriage procession. The bride, seated in a palanquin, was preceded by a band of music; and waving banners, of various colours, adorned the solemnity. Then followed the relations of the bride and of the bridegroom; and in this state was the lady escorted to the house of her husband.

Hoang continued his journey; but he had yet many days to travel, and now his feet made slow steps with pain, and his whole body was weary. He stopped, therefore, though he was anxious to finish his journey, and was solaced by the entertainments of the first of March. It is established,
by

by ancient usage, that, on that day, dramatic pieces should be performed in the open streets of every town throughout the empire, for the gratification of the poor. This benevolent practice continues during many days, at the expence of the emperor.

Hoang arrived, at length, within the precincts of the city of Tong-tchew, which is situate at about twenty miles short of the city of Peking, and thirty of the imperial residence. He passed along the paved way which is allotted to foot passengers, in the middle of the road, while the carriage and horse paths are along each. In these spacious and magnificent roads, which run from the capital to all the principal

K 2

places,

places, the foot-way is twenty feet broad, and the carriage roads on each side are gravelled, and of sufficient width to admit six carriages abreast in each.

Evening was approaching, and Hoang, destitute of a single piece of money, looked back with regret on the pagodas of Tong-tchew, that glowed with the last beams of day. He could not prevail upon himself to ask the hospitality of the peasants whose houses he passed, but, hungry and fatigued, he went slowly onward, resigned to endure unsheltered, the comfortless hours of night.

As he proceeded thus, his dejected countenance and venerable appearance attracted the notice of
some

some of those labourers that are stationed in large troops along the roads, in order to keep them in continual repair. These people were laying their shovels and mattocks on their shoulders, and retiring to their cottages; but they stopped to cheer Hoang with the words of respect and consolation.

He frankly informed them of his forlorn condition, acknowledging that he was without the means of present support, or of procuring a retreat from the dews of night. Several peasants immediately pressed him to abide under their roofs till morning, and proffered every relief to his wants. It was contested among them, who should have the pleasure of providing

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viding for the stranger? Hoang ended the dispute, by accepting the invitation of one of the labourers, who lived in what is called *a junk*. This is a barge, or gondola, moored upon a lake, at the most convenient place. In these aquatic habitations, thousands of families reside. Moving islands, formed of mud, bound in with osiers, are in like manner employed for the cultivation of vegetables. By the assistance of these contrivances, millions of people inhabit the peaceful territories of China, for whom the land can find no place.

The wife and children of the peasant welcomed Hoang on his entrance of their junk. Having performed the ceremonies of their religion to the

Joss

Joss that was placed over a painted, but rude altar, and that was itself as frightful and uncouth as can well be imagined, they sat down to a simple meal. After this temperate repast, and before day-light had quite forsaken the skies, the family retired to rest. Hoang had been so fatigued on the preceding day, that it was late before he rose. The peasant had returned to his labor, and the family had carefully avoided waking the stranger. They set before him every thing that he could want, and prayed him to continue with them all that day : but Hoang, though he regretted that he could not return his thanks in person to the hospitable owner, left the junk, after kneeling to the *Joss*, and
invoking

invoking blessings on the family. He took a draught of cold tea *, and departed, anxious to complete the important business of his journey.

In a few hours he entered the town of Kiseng-Foo, the streets of which are thronged with multitudes that would croud the largest cities of European nations. Spacious streets, without pavement, but well gravelled and watered, were every where covered with passengers, and bordered by

* The Chinese keep large quantities of the infusion of tea in their apartments. It is for this purpose that the large jars are made, that, in Europe, are used only as ornaments, and were formerly fashionable additions to the furniture of houses.

From these jars, in China, the tea infusion is served to the family or to visitors cold, very strong, and without milk or sugar.

sumptuous

sumptuous shops, stored with commodities of every description.

Many traders were crying their goods along these streets, with a bamboo placed across their shoulders, and a basket at each end. These carried fish, vegetables, eggs, and other articles. Hawkers and pedlars, too, went about in great numbers, with bags strapped on their shoulders, like a knapsack, containing various kinds of ship goods.

HOANG accosted one of these itinerants, requesting to be informed where he could purchase some meat: but being a native of a distant province, he spoke in a different dialect from that which the people of this place were accustomed to hear. The
man,

man, therefore, did not intirely understand him ; but being a barber, he imagined that HOANG wished to be shaved. It is customary in the towns of CHINA, to sit down in the open street to undergo this operation; and though HOANG had applied to the barber for a very different purpose, he accepted the invitation. CHING-CHEE, the barber, had with him, according to the custom of his trade, every requisite for the ceremony. He put down a portable chair on the way-side, and near to that a stove, and a small vessel of water. He then produced the proper instruments for shaving, and cleansing the ears, and Hoang borrowed a brush for his nose.

There

There were other causes for the misapprehension of the wandering barber, than the dialectic variation of HOANG's language, as will be evident from the facility with which they afterward conversed. First, CHING-CHEE was led, by habit, to imagine that, every one who spoke to him, stood in need of his razor; secondly, his mind was fully occupied by the singular circumstance which at that moment engrossed the conversation of the place. Hoang perceiving the eagerness of every face that passed him, and the mirth which seemed depicted in their features, forgot for a moment the misfortunes under which he labored, and requested an explanation of the scene,

scene, from CHING-CHEE, the barber. CHING-CHEE was by no means backward to comply with his desire, and having lathered the face and head of the traveller, laughed very heartily, by way of prologue to his tale.

“The traveller shall be obeyed,” said he, “and the barber shall relate the cause of the mirth of the traders of Kiseng-Foo.”



CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

The Story of Hoang the chinese merchant continued:

—The cause of the mirth of the traders of Kiseng:

Foo:—conclusion of the story of Hoang.

“THE traveller must know,” said Ching-Chee, “that a certain porcelain dealer that lives on the other side of the way—there, see you not? that shop at which the pink banners wave, and the golden letters sparkle—there, next to the yellow flags—close to the dragon—well, that porcelain dealer had a daughter that was fairer than light. Her eyes were smaller than those of any of the daughters

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of

of China: her arms were long and slender, and she was called Choo-au*.

“How often has thy servant seen her, with lips striped down the middle of her mouth with the deepest vermillion! She wore upon her forehead a sharp peak of black velvet, ornamented with jewels, that descended between her eyes. Her presence brightened the day in the streets of Kiseng-Foo!

“Choo-au was struck by the angel of death, and the most skilful physicians were unable to restore health to the damsel. Then the father of Choo-au prostrated himself in the pagoda, and gave presents to the *bonzes*, or priests, imploring them

* The Beautiful.

to pray to the idol of their temple that his daughter might recover. The *bonzes* promised that his child would be cured, if he continued his duteous offerings.

“Notwithstanding the presents and the prayers of the citizen of Kiseng-Foo, and the promises of the *bonzes*, thou must hear, traveller, that, Choo-au died. Her father, in the transport of his grief, made a vow to have vengeance on the idol and his priests.

“In prosecution of his vow, he presented a written complaint to the magistrate of our town, wherein he set forth the deceitful behaviour of the unjust idol, and demanded that it should receive exemplary punishment. ‘If the spirit,’ said he, ‘had

power to cure my daughter, it was guilty of a gross fraud in taking my money, and yet suffering my daughter to die : if it had not so much power, it was equally fraudulent in pretending to possess it ; and thus, while it assumes a divine character, it is, in fact, an absolute impostor. It is for nothing that we adore it, and that the whole province offers sacrifices to it?' In a word, he concluded, ' whether it was want of power, or mere malice in the idol, its temple should be razed, its ministers banished with disgrace, and itself punished in its own person.'

"Our judge heard the important plea with attention : but believing it to be above his jurisdiction, he referred the appellant

appellant to the governor. The governor, fearful of the priests, begged the vice-roy to hear the petition of the dealer in porcelain.

“The vice-roy summoned the *bonzes* to answer the complaint, and having heard what they had to say, he called the plaintiff, and advised him to give up the suit. ‘You are not prudent,’ said the vice-roy, ‘you are not prudent in quarrelling with those kind of spirits. They are naturally malicious, and I am afraid they will play you some disagreeable trick. Believe me, you had much better listen to proposals of accommodation which the *bonzes* will make you. They have assured me that, the idol will hearken to reason,

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son, provided you do not push things to extremity.'

"The father of Choo-au heard with contempt this proposal of reconciliation; and declared, 'that he would rather perish than give up his petition.'

"The vice-roy finding it impossible to dissuade the porcelain dealer from his purpose, ordered preparations to be made for a trial. In the mean time he applied to the supreme council at Peking. The matter was carried thither, and the father of Choo-au has lately returned from the trial. The emperor has decided in his favor. In consequence the pagoda has been pulled down; the priests have been punished; and we
have

have had the pleasure, this very morning, of dragging the useless idol along the streets of our town."

Here Ching - Chee, the barber, finished his story. The conclusion was extremely interesting to Hoang. It was another example of the attention and justice of the emperor, and he joyfully received it in addition to those that he had already heard, and that induced him to undertake his present laborious journey. Hoang now parted with the barber, repeating his first inquiry for a place where he might procure food. He found a butcher's shop; and butchers in China perform the offices of cooks. upon a stall before the door was an earthen stove, with a gridiron. The
butcher,

butcher, at Hoang's request, cut little slices of beef, of about the size of a crown piece, which he broiled as fast as his customer could eat them. Hoang having thus refreshed himself, proceeded on his way. He passed through the suburbs, and, on the next morning, entered the vast city of Peking. This city is defended by a wall that incloses a square space of about thirty-six miles. There is a grand gate at the centre of each angle; and a smaller one at each corner of the wall. These are strongly arched, and fortified by a square building, or tower, of seven stories, that rises from the top of the gateway. The sides, also, are strengthened by a parapet wall that
has

has port-holes for ordnance. The windows of this building are of wood, and they are painted to imitate the muzzle of a great gun, which is so exactly represented, that the deception is not discoverable but on a very near approach: there are nine windows to each story on the front toward the suburbs. These gates are double, and are built of a kind of free stone. At each of the principal gates there is a strong guard of soldiers, with several pieces of ordnance, placed on each side of the inner entrance. The gates are opened at the dawn of day, and shut at ten o'clock at night. The wall is about thirty feet high, and ten feet in breadth on the top: the foundation

is

is of stone; the upper part is of brick, and gradually diminishes from the bottom to the top.

The streets along which Hoang passed are, like most others in this splendid metropolis, one hundred and forty feet in breadth, and of considerable length. At each end there is a large gate-way fancifully painted, with a handsome roof coloured and varnished; on an entablature beneath is written the name of the street in golden characters. The real street, that is, the continued avenues, is sometimes, five miles in length; but these arches terminate the nominal street, giving different appellations to the several divisions. The narrow streets are shut

shut in during the night, with small lattice gates: but all the larger are guarded day and night by soldiers, who wear swords, and carry long whips in their hands, to clear the streets of such as are wanting in ordinary decorum or good behaviour. The houses are generally two stories high, and though, with respect to size and domestic accommodation, they are mean, yet their exterior appearance is very handsome and elegant. The upper part of their shops is ornamented with golden characters in great profusion; and columns are erected before the door, gilded and painted, with a flag on the top: the characters expressed on which, declare the name and business of the owner.

owner. There is a grandeur in their general appearance, but those for earthen or porcelain utensils are peculiarly elegant.

On the roofs of the houses are galleries, richly painted, and otherwise decorated, where the ladies assemble to converse, or to entertain themselves with the amusements of the country. In the streets, many groups of people were assembled round auctioneers, who, to sell their goods, were making loud harangues. Hoang, little regarding what was to be seen or heard, plodded on to the extremity of the city; and, on the next day, he reached the palace in which the emperor resides, and which is called Yemen-man-yemen.

Worn

Worn with fatigue and affliction, and wretchedly appareled, Hoang presented himself at the gates of the emperor's abode ; but his appearance exposed him to the rudeness of the guards. He had not hoped to gain admittance ; he only intreated with earnestness that his written petition might be carried to his sovereign. But this favour being refused, he waited in an outer court, expecting his approach ; for it was in the way to the council-chamber.

When the procession advanced, several of the inferior mandarins accosted the ragged stranger, blaming him for having so intruded. Hoang would not retire ; he struggled to maintain his place ; but overpowered

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at

at length, and seized by the guards, he was dragged toward the gate, and would have been soon excluded from the palace, had not Tchien-Loong himself already approached, and inquired the cause of the tumult. Hoang lifted up his hand, in which he held his petition; and the emperor observing this, ordered the paper to be brought to him. Having read the writing, the emperor ordered Hoang to follow him.

Way was immediately made, and the merchant of Nankin waited in an anti-room while the emperor joined the council.

Each vice-roy is obliged to attend the emperor at a particular time in every year; and it happened that him

of

of Nankin was on this day waiting for an audience of the emperor. Tchien-Loong charged him with his crime, and having obtained proofs of the fact, he condemned him to punishment. He caused the property to be restored: and having addressed the council upon the crime of misusing power, he bestowed, with general approbation, the viceroyship upon Hoang.



CHAP. IX.

A circumstance concerning the good or ill fortune of which there may be a diversity of opinion.

SARAH was invited by Hester to pass a few days with her at some distance in the country. I was too much of a favourite to be left behind. Sarah had always taken care that my confinement should be complete ; so that I had never for a single moment, indulged an expectation of freedom. I have not required the reader to listen to my complaints—it will not be supposed

posed that I was happy—but I suffered my attention to be, in some measure, employed upon those novelties which my situation afforded.

Hester prevailed upon Sarah to consent that I should be permitted to come out of my den. Previous to this very hazardous event, the door of the apartment was locked, the window fastened, and the fireplace secured with aprons, table-cloths, &c. and with an excess of short-sighted prudence that so frequently defeats itself, the chimney was not thought sufficiently barricadoed until several chairs had been piled before it. Like a prisoner at the bar while the Jury are withdrawn, my legs trembled, alternate heats and chills prevailed over

my body, during the time that I waited for the chance of an escape ; and my whole frame seemed shook to dissolution by the too great importance of the moment. That moment arrived. I was placed upon the table, and in an instant, I dashed against the window, little expecting the glassy barrier, Disappointed and bruised, I flew to the opposite side of the room, and next sheltered myself upon the hearth. Here I was protected from my pursuers by the cumbrous and intangled heap of chairs. Immediately, however, they began to destroy my fortifications, regretting that they had been made the providers of my safeguard. While they were engaged in this labour, which their haste and alarm rendered

rendered difficult, I abandoned the citadel, and sought safety in a second flight. It was in their power to have cut off my escape, by passing between me and the door; but, instead of doing this, they pursued me. I endeavoured to hitch upon the mouldings of the door, but, unable through terror to do this, I fell to the ground. Their fingers touched me more than once, but I eluded them, and passed with ease beneath the door. This was an event for which they were totally unprepared. They had double locked the door, and this was now to be undone. The bolt resounded, the door and the wainscot were shaken: but they were old friends, and had many ties of union—they would not part.

The

The truth was that, though the bolt over which the key had control had dutifully retired, there was a little bolt under the lock, which Hester (provident maiden!) had by herself employed. For Hester, being the promoter of the scheme, was, as became her, extremely anxious that no harm should happen.

It might well deserve a digression, if I were here to expatiate upon partial ideas of good and evil events; and the subject would receive notable illustration from the very essential difference of opinion between the ladies and myself (a difference that, as a polite bird, I certainly regret) at that moment, as to what might be termed an harmful issue of the circumstance.

cumstance. But, I, with my usual attention to the regularity of composition, would not, upon any account, interrupt the story.

Sarah, then, knew nothing of the little bolt, and if Hester remembered any thing of the matter, she took it for granted that Sarah had pushed it back. All the blame was laid upon the lock, which was accused of old offences; and particularly of a malicious obstinacy whenever people were in a hurry. "O, the bird is gone?" exclaimed Sarah, bursting into tears; but Hester, the author of the misfortune, was by no means so credulous.

Nothing was to be done but by main force, to conquer this perverse lock.

lock. Sarah, with her face reddened and covered with tears, and her hair in her eyes, had wrapped her frock round her hand to protect it from the pressure of the key, that had already imprinted its ring upon her finger. The unfortunate bolt was, at length discovered: but, by this time, the key had been forced in a wrong direction, and, together with the wards being bent, it was impossible to withdraw it. It was concluded, besides, that now all pursuit was useless, the only thing that remained worthy of consideration was, their own release; and, having set the chairs in their places, they effected this by means of the windows, the room being on the ground floor. If, regardless

regardless of the distress of Sarah or of Hester, you have pleased your imagination, by accompanying my unrestrained wings through gardens, through orchards, and over lawns and streams, I am sorry to say you have indulged yourself too hastily. As soon as I had escaped by the crevice of the door, I fled uncontrolled till I arrived near the vestibule. Here I was stopped by the glass doors; and having almost lost the power of exertion, I contented myself with temporary concealment behind a bust of Shakspear. In this dusty retreat I lay panting some hours, frequently alarmed by the approach of various persons of the family; and after my release, by Sarah and Hester themselves.

selves. In this situation I continued during the remainder of the day, and the whole of the night. Next morning, when the servants had unbarred, unbolted, and unshuttered the windows, I ventured to fly from my hiding-place.

It was in the neighbourhood of Dunstable, in Bedfordshire, the public market of which is every week filled with straw manufactures, the work of some thousands of its inhabitants, that I first obtained liberty in England. In the course of a few months, I passed the midland counties, and went northward into Yorkshire.

I shall not detain you with a very particular account of my adventures
during

during the two years that I have enjoyed in this country. There are a few particulars, however, with which I wish to conclude my story, and these shall be related in the following chapter.



CHAP. X.

TWELFTH - DAY.

I PASSED through Scotland, and sojourned among the Orkneys, or Western Hebrides; whence I took a long flight of sixty miles, with some hundreds of my fellows, over the tempestuous Atlantic: alighting at length upon the Shetland Isles*. In these wild regions, I indulged the

* Mr. PENNANT observes that, the gold-crested wren crosses from the Orkneys every season, to breed. "A long flight of sixty miles," he adds, "for so small a bird."

natural

natural familiarity of my habits. I was not afraid to visit the cottage of the peasant, nor to spend my hours among the hedges of his little garden.

Returning with the season, I visited once more the main land of Britain. In all my wanderings, I had not forgotten the obligations under which I lay to Sarah. I had left her with a natural predilection for my own happiness, but I was not indifferent to hers; and I frequently remembered, with anxiety, that state of suspense which she suffered on account of her absent mother. I had every reason to be grateful to her, both for the deliverance which she accomplished for me, when I ex-

pected instant destruction from the market-woman of Nuremburg; and for the kind attention before I recovered my strength, and during the whole time that I was in her possession: and if at any time I secretly murmured at parts of her behaviour toward me, time had softened all my resentments, and reflection had led me to attribute whatever I disliked, not to any bad intention on her part, but to the impossibility that any creature should, on all occasions, understand what it is that will promote the happiness of another; especially of one of a totally different nature: indeed, generally speaking, the truest benevolence is, to suffer every thing to be happy in its own way.

If,

If, however, it had been possible that I, confined under the arbitrary will of another, and debarred those enjoyments of which nature has made me susceptible, could have felt myself contented, I should have been most peculiarly so in Sarah's hands. To her I owe the preservation of my existence; and she did every thing she could do to render that existence blissful, while it remained within her power. Nay, more: when I escaped, and while I trembled behind the bust of Shakspear, her principal expressions of regret were dictated by a regard to my future welfare: she was afraid that, I could not, unhoused, indure the cold of winter; that I had not strength to fly; that

the wild birds would drive me away from food, and hunt me wherever I was to be found. Fortunately these tender fears were needless. I had not been so long confined as to forget the use of my wings, to lose strength to give them employment, or to be unfitted for the preservation of myself, or for the society of others.

Winter, however, presented its usual scarcity. It came on while I rambled over the low lands of Scotland. One day, when deep snow covered the ground, I met half a dozen brown wrens and red-breasts*, who asked me if I was hungry? Upon my answering eagerly in the

* The common wren is attached to the red-breast, with whom it frequently associates.

affirmative,

affirmative, they generously invited me to share some food which they expected to find at a certain window. No intelligence could have been more welcome. I thankfully joined their party, and was conducted into a small garden, into which the windows of a parlour opened. We alighted upon some shrubs, and reconnoitred the ground; but, much to their disappointment and mine, no food could be discovered.

This misfortune led my friends to inform me of their reasons for expecting the supply of which they had asked me to partake. They said, that a young lady was so good as to throw out crumbs every morning and evening; and, that they were accustomed

tomed to attend, and she to give, at a particular hour. They spoke with much gratitude of so kind a benefactress, and told me, that they went close to her without apprehension; and that, though treachery is common, they really believed that she offered gifts without intending to injure the receiver. How it happened, that she had now forsaken them, after an acquaintance so intimate, and productive of so much pleasure to both parties, the obliging and the obliged, they were at a loss to say.

Favors constantly bestowed, are generally received as matters of right. A single omission frequently incurs a greater degree of censure than all the former bounty obtained
applause.

applause. I will not say that my companions were entirely overcome by this failing; but they were certainly impatient of their disappointment. They flew backward and forward across the windows, chirruping, hoping to gain the attention of the lady; but this contrivance was unsuccessful. At length, a red-breast ventured to pass through one of the windows, the sash of which was partly thrown up. He peeped in, then turned round, twittered, looked again, hopped a pace or two, peeped, turned round, twittered, told us that the room was empty, invited us to follow him, and sprang into the void. We obeyed his summons, and, on our entrance, found him picking a few

few crumbs upon the floor. It was not without many expressions of diffidence on the one hand, and of encouragement on the other, that we ventured to join our leader. We had scarcely done this, when the door was suddenly opened, and a servant entered the room. Every one flew, immediately, toward the window; but, before I could escape, the servant had advanced thither, and, afraid to risk my safety, I delayed passing till the window was shut down.

Terrified in the extreme, I instantly hid myself among the folds of a curtain. The servant went out, leaving the door ajar, and I might have escaped: but I considered myself as perfectly secure for the present, and

I could

I could not muster courage to expose myself to the hazard of removal.

While I debated within myself upon the expediency of immediate departure, or of prudential patience till a better opportunity presented itself, the servant entered again, with candles. Confounded by a blaze of light to which I had been long unused, I did not recover before the curtain dropped from beneath my feet. I was so entirely unprepared for this mysterious event, that I scarcely avoided falling to the ground. Feeling, at length, the power of my wings, I darted violently toward the light, and, in an instant, dashed myself against the flaming candles. The lights were extinguished; the servant
screamed

screamed loudly; my feathers were scorched: I rushed forward at once, elevating myself in my flight, and presently touching something that permitted my feet to rest, I clung to it, as it were to life: other lights, and other persons appeared. Among these, with astonishment and delight, I beheld my well-beloved Sarah! After making this discovery, I soon recognized the lady, her guardian, and the Scotchman who sailed in the packet-boat. One of the party lighted the candles again, while another, to my consternation, advanced toward myself. I had lodged upon a second curtain, and this presently fell down. Fortunately, I rested upon a plaiting at the head of the curtain that did not descend

descend with the rest ; and I comforted myself with the belief that I was hid from every eye.

Sarah, since last I beheld her, was much grown and considerably improved. I perceived that she was agitated, and had been in tears ; and from the attention bestowed upon her by a lady whom I had never seen before, I soon began to hope that which I afterward found to be true. Sarah was restored to her mother, and in the acquisition of this blessing, the good Scotchman had been instrumental. From the unconnected parts of a conversation in which, as every one but myself seemed to be acquainted with the particulars, no narrative was attempted, I could learn but little. I

O

heard

heard, however, that circumstances of distress had thrown obscurity over the situation of the mother. It was with much pleasure that I gathered from other expressions that, that distress was removed.

It happened to be what is commonly called Twelfth-day; and the party were assembled to celebrate its honors. The cake was introduced, and every one drew his lot from among a collection of papers. Much laughter, and many shrewd remarks, followed this eventful moment. I found that, the mirth was principally caused by the sarcastic appellations or admonitions that most of the party received; for those who were laughed at had no other resource but to laugh at
at.

at others; and as every one was laughing, pre-eminence, the wish of each, could only be hoped for by the loudest, or the longest laugher. Now, if the benevolent desire of pleasing your friends, or those whom you honour with that title, be the real motive on which you act, would it not be as well if every name and sentence were complimentary? Is it not as easy to say a good-natured thing as it is to say an unpleasant one? and might it not produce a smile as pleasurable, and infinitely more becoming the human countenance? And if there be not a maliciousness in your penetration, is it more difficult to find in every character a subject for praise than for satire?

But there are few, very few, amusements that do not tend to debase or to harden the heart. Large stores of riddles and conundrums were next introduced. Every one feels the passion for superiority; and those who have no better pretensions, will employ the meanest methods of gratification. What merit is there in discovering the meaning of a riddle? Yet he that is in possession of the secret, triumphs over the blunderer; and real talents are abashed by perceiving their incapacity of doing that which is so much praised. A riddle, I speak of the enigmatical tribe, is not worthy of being unravelled; because it is impossible, by dint of absolute understanding, to enter into
the

the association of ideas that led to its invention; and because it is always dangerous to bestow those applauses upon chance, which ought to be the reward of excellence alone.

Some part of the company set down to cards: but I shall pass at once to a more agreeable amusement. Who is there that observes the miserable shifts to which the social world is driven, in order, literally to *get rid* of the hours that are, for form's sake, passed in company;—who is there, be he ever so attached to conversation, or dead to the “concord of sweet sounds,” that does not rejoice to see the practice of music so prevalent? While the time is thus occupied, one part of the assembly

sembly is employed in praising, and the other in endeavouring to deserve the praises. Here the best energies of the mind are called into action.

General attention was demanded, and very readily given, to the piano-forté. Sarah sang "*Where awa, where awa, wandering Willie.*" When she began this song, I was absolutely apprehensive that she had discovered my retreat, and had addressed her strain to me. It is this idea that makes songs popular: for every one finds many individuals, who applying it to himself, or to another, increases its pathos by ten thousand fold. The scotchman having given—

"When wild war's horrid blast was blawn,

"And gentle peace returning," &c.*

* Burns.

An

An elderly lady requested that the next tune might be merry; the performer complaisantly touched some lively notes, and, presently run into a strathpsey. This was no sooner heard, than one of the party rose, and exhibited symptoms of dancing, that quickly communicated itself to the rest. Every thing that is done by mankind deserves high consideration: but on the present subject I shall only observe that, to that part of society to whom almost every bodily exertion is prohibited as disgraceful, the amusement is to be regarded as a blessing which affords a genteel pretext for exercise.

Thus passed the evening that I spent upon the curtain, and that presented

sented to me, for the last time, the person of my friend, and gave me the satisfaction of beholding her restored to happiness. In the morning I left my confinement, and ever since have I continued free and happy.

You, reader, if you have condescended to follow my pages regularly, have already "listened to my lore."—May I hope that you will grant my other request?—Will you guard my golden head from harm? At least, will you refrain from harming it yourself, if we should happen to meet.



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